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During our conversation somehow we got on the subject of Marshal Juin and Mollet told me the story of General de Gaulle being asked what he thought of Marshal Juin's qualities as a soldier and as a personality. The General answered, "Juin, of what year?", which is a pretty play on the French language.

Charlie Cheston dropped in to see me this afternoon. I am [redacted] fond of him. He is doing a quick tour around Western Europe in connection with the business of the Monsanto Chemical Company, of which he is a Director.

As has been the case for two weeks, we have been busy morning, noon and night cabling, telephoning, and seeing people in connection with the French situation. It is increasingly evident that Laniel does not propose to have a debate on EDC before the Easter recess of Parliament if he can possibly avoid it. The newspapers opposed to EDC are making great capital out of the alleged use of American pressure, the bad intentions of the Germans in providing for the raising of an Army, and they are in fact lashing out in every direction, creating straw men and then trying to topple them over.

Doc Matthews came to dinner tonight. Aside from other things, we had a bottle of Ch. Mission Haut Brion 1929 and a bottle of Ch. Léoville Lascases 1928. The latter was by far the better. The former was tired and had lost its bouquet.

Earlier in the day Jim Conant called to say the Bundesrat had passed the Constitutional Amendment, which is not a Constitutional Amendment, allowing Germany to rearm, by more than the needed two-thirds majority. This is comforting, but he is still engaged in dispute with the French over whether the Allied High Commission will approve this action.

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